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General

Gibraltar is located in Southwestern Europe, bordering the Strait of Gibraltar, which links the Mediterranean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, on the S coast of Spain.

The climate is Mediterranean with mild winters and warm.

The terrain is a narrow coastal lowlands bordering The Rock.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Gibraltar pound, consisting of 100 pence.

Firing Areas

Firing practice may take place, in an area extending up to 1.6 miles seaward from the SE coast of Gibraltar. A red flag will be displayed from three places along the coast 30 minutes before the start of firing.

Government

Gibraltar is a dependent territory of the United Kingdom. The capital is Gibraltar.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

Jan. 1, New Year's Day; Good Friday; Easter Monday; May Day; Commonwealth Day; Spring Bank Holiday (last weekend in May); the Queen's Birthday; Summer Bank Holiday (last weekend in August); Dec. 25, Christmas Day; and Dec. 26, Boxing Day.

Industries

The main industries include tourism, banking and finance, construction, commerce, support to UK naval and air bases, transit trade and ship chandlery.

Languages

English is the official language. Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Russian are also spoken.

Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for all vessels, except those leaving the anchorage direct for sea. Bay pilots berth ships at the Mercantile Port and Admiralty Pilots at HM Naval Base.

Submarine Operating Areas

British submarines may be found conducting exercises outside Spanish territorial waters, E of the Strait of Gibraltar.

The notice "Submarine Exercise Area" on the chart should not be read to mean that submarines do not operate outside such areas.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALPHA (-1).

U.S. Embassy

Gibraltar is a dependent territory of the United Kingdom.
There is no diplomatic representation.